

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Claims 10, 21, 32, 34, 37, 39-41, 44-45, 47-51, 54, and 56-66 are cancelled. Claims 67-75 are added. Claims 1-9, 11-20, 22-31, 33, 35-36, 38, 42-43, 46, 52-53 and 55 remain in this application as amended herein. Accordingly, claims 1-9, 11-20, 22-31, 33, 35-36, 38, 42-43, 46, 52-53, 55, and 67-75 are submitted for the Examiner's reconsideration.

The specification has been amended to correct an error in the translation from the Japanese-language priority application. No new matter has been added by these changes.

Claims 1, 12 and 23 have been amended to place the application in condition for allowance. Moreover, claims 2-3, 5-9, 11, 13-14, 16-20, 24-25, 27-31, 35-36, 38, 42-43, 46, 52-53 and 55 have been amended to provide proper antecedence and to have the claims better conform to the requirements of U.S. practice. No new matter has been added by the amendments. It is therefore submitted that the present amendment should be entered.

In the Office Action, claims 7, 36, 39, 43, 53, and 66 were rejected on the 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claim 7 has been amended to correct the informality, and claims 39 and 66 are cancelled.

The Examiner contends that the limitation "removing the electrical connection prior to installing the wireless communication between the first device and the second device" is not supported by the specification. However, support for this feature is found in, e.g., ¶¶ [0159], [0162] and [0168] which describes that a connection is provided only when the communication specification information is exchanged and the connection is then broken.

Moreover, a person of ordinary skill in the relevant

art would readily understand that the claimed secondary connector and the claimed secondary electrical connection would be removed prior to the initiation of wireless communication. Such connections are only needed to carry the communication specification information prior to the initiation of the wireless communication and are not needed thereafter. The presence of such a connection during wireless communication would restrict the separation distance between the primary device and a secondary device and thus defeats the advantages of carrying out communication in a wireless manner.

It is therefore submitted that claims 36, 43 and 53 are in full compliance with requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Turning now to the art rejections, claims 1-4, 10, 12-15, 21, 23-26, 30, 32, 35, 37-38, 42, 44, 46, 52, 54-62 and 65 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Haraguchi (U.S. Patent No. 4,979,205); claims 5-6, 16-17, 27-28 and 63-64 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Haraguchi in view of Evans (U.S. Patent No. 5,890,069); claims 8-9, 11, 19-20, 22, 31, 33, 40-41, 45, 48-49, and 51 were rejected on the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Haraguchi in view of Ganz (U.S. Patent No. 6,584,080); and claims 18, 29, 34, 47 and 50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Haraguchi in view of Atsushi (Japanese Patent No. JP 8140141). Claims 10, 21, 32, 34, 37, 40-41, 44-45, 47-51, 54, and 56-65 are cancelled. It is submitted that the remaining claims are patentably distinguishable over the cited references.

The Haraguchi patent describes a cordless telephone that includes a base unit and a handset unit that communicate using radio waves. Prior to carrying out the radio communication, an identification code is transmitted from one of the units to the other through the recharging contacts. (See Col. 9, line 55 - 10, line 2; Col. 10, lines 15 - 22; and Col.

14, lines 28 - 57). The patent is therefore concerned with only *one base unit* and only *one handset*. Haraguchi does not disclose or suggest generating a *number of* ID codes, does not disclose or suggest associating the ID codes with a *plurality of devices*, does not disclose or suggest associating the ID codes with a *portion of a plurality of devices*, and does not disclose or suggest *sending an inquiry* as to whether any of the ID codes is not associated with one of the plurality of devices.

The Evans patent describes a cordless telephone system formed of a plurality of telephone base units and their respective cordless telephone handsets. Each base unit chooses an ID code for communication between that base unit and its respective handset unit. The base units are interconnected, and each stores an internal table that includes the ID codes used by the other base units. (See Fig. 1; Col. 4, lines 37-56; and Col. 5, lines 5-15 and 26-34). The patent therefore describes that each base unit associates only *one ID code* with only *one handset*. Evans does not disclose or suggest that any of the base units generates a *number of* ID codes, does not disclose or suggest that any of the base units associates a *number of* ID codes with a *plurality of* handsets, and does not disclose or suggest that any of the base units associates a *number of* ID codes with a *portion of a plurality of* devices. Further, the patent does not disclose or suggest *sending an inquiry* as to whether any of the ID codes is not associated with one of the plurality of devices.

The Ganz patent describes a radio communications repeater system in which each repeater has at least one radiolink element for sending data packets between the repeater and a host radio station, between the repeater and users, or between the repeater and other repeaters. (See Fig. 1; Col. 2, lines 56-65). The patent, however, does not disclose or suggest generating communications specification information portions,

does not disclose or suggest associating communications specification information portions with devices, and does not disclose or suggest sending an inquiry as to whether any of the communication specification information portions is not associated with a device.

The Atsushi publication describes a database that registers and stores plural mobile terminals as a group and describes a base station that transmits calling state information to the mobile terminals. The publication, however, does not disclose or suggest associating communication specification information portions with a *portion of* a plurality of mobile terminals and does not disclose or suggest associating a communication specification information portions with one or more of a *second portion of* the plurality of mobile terminals. Further, the publication does not disclose or suggest sending an inquiry as to whether any of the communication specification information portions is not associated with a mobile terminals.

Therefore, neither Haraguchi, Evans, Ganz nor Atsushi whether taken alone or in combination, discloses or suggests:

associating a specific one of the first number of communication specification information portions with each one of a first plurality of secondary devices when the number of devices in the first plurality of secondary devices does not exceed the first number, the first primary device thereby being operable to carry out wireless communication with each one of the first plurality of secondary devices;

associating a specific one of the first number of communication specification information portions with each one of a first portion of the first plurality of secondary devices when the number of devices in the first plurality of secondary devices exceeds the first number, the first primary device thereby being operable to carry out wireless communication with each one of the first portion of the first plurality of secondary devices;

associating a specific one of the second number of communication specification information portions with each one of a second plurality of secondary

devices when the number of devices in the second plurality of secondary devices does not exceed the second number, the second primary device thereby being operable to carry out wireless communication with each one of the second plurality of secondary devices;

sending, from the first primary device via the primary electrical connection when the number of devices in the first plurality of secondary devices exceeds the first number, an inquiry as to whether any of the second number of communication specification information portions is not associated with one of the second plurality of secondary devices; and

associating a further specific one of the second number of the communication specification information portions with at least one of a second portion of the first plurality of secondary devices when that communication specification information portion is not associated with one of the second plurality of secondary devices, the second primary device thereby being further operable to carry out wireless communication with the at least one of the second portion of the first plurality of secondary devices

as called for in claim 1.

It follows that neither Haraguchi, Evans, Ganz, nor Atsushi, whether taken alone or in combination, discloses or suggests the method defined in claim 1, and claim 1 is therefore patentably distinct and unobvious over the references.

Claims 2-9, 11, 35-36 and 38 depend from claim 1, and each further defines and limits the invention set out in the independent claim. Claims 2-9, 11, 35-36 and 38 are therefore distinguishable over the cited art for at least the same reasons.

Independent claim 12 defines a system that includes a first primary device, a second primary device, and a primary connection unit. The first primary device includes:

an associating unit operable to associate a specific one of the first number of communication specification information portions with each one of a first plurality of secondary devices when the number of devices in the first plurality of secondary devices does not exceed the first number, the first primary

device thereby being operable to carry out wireless communication with each one of the first plurality of secondary devices and to associate a specific one of the first number of communication specification information portions with each one of a first portion of the first plurality of secondary devices when the number of devices in the first plurality of secondary devices exceeds the first number, the first primary device thereby being operable to carry out wireless communication with each one of the first portion of the first plurality of secondary devices

and includes:

a sending unit operable to send an inquiry as to whether any of the second number of communication specification information portions is not associated with one of the second plurality of secondary devices via said primary connection unit when the number of devices in the first plurality of secondary devices exceeds the first number;

and the second primary device includes:

an associating unit operable to associate a specific one of the second number of communication specification information portions with each one of a second plurality of secondary devices when the number of devices in the second plurality of secondary devices does not exceed the second number, the second primary device thereby being operable to carry out wireless communication with each one of the second plurality of secondary devices

and

said associating unit of said second primary device being further operable to associate a further specific one of the second number of the communication specification information portions with at least one of a second portion of the first plurality of secondary devices when that communication specification information portion is not associated with one of the second plurality of secondary devices, the second primary device thereby being further operable to carry out wireless communication with the at least one of the second portion of the first plurality of secondary devices.

Therefore, at least for the reasons set out above regarding claim 1, claim 12 is also patentably distinguishable over the cited references.

Claims 13-20, 22, 42-43 and 46 depend from claim 12 and are therefore distinguishable over the cited art at least for the same reasons.

Independent claim 23 sets forth a computer-readable recording medium recorded with a program for carrying out the method defined in claim 1. Claim 23 is therefore patentably distinguishable over the cited references for at least the same reasons.

Claims 24-31, 33, 52-53 and 55 depend from claim 23. For at least the same reasons, claims 24-31, 52-53 and 55 are distinguishable over the cited art.

Accordingly, the withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is respectfully requested.

New claim 67 depends from claim 1, new claim 68 depends from claim 12, and new claim 69 depends from claim 23. Therefore, each of claims 67-69 are distinguishable over the cited references for at least the same reasons.

New claim 70 recites a method that includes limitations similar to those set out in claim 1, new claim 72 defines a system having limitations similar to those set out in claim 12, and new claim 74 a computer-readable recording medium recorded with a program for carrying out the method defined in claim 70. Claims 70, 72 and 74 are therefore distinguishable over the cited references for at least the same reasons. Moreover, claim 71 depends from claim 70, new claim 73 depends from claim 72, and claim 75 depends from claim 74, and therefore each is distinguishable over the cited references for at least the same reasons.

Support for new claims 67-75 is found, e.g., in Figs. 10-13 and in ¶¶ [0093]-[0131] of the specification.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which the Examiner might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
Robert B. Cohen

Registration No.: 32,768
LERNER, DAVID, LITTENBERG,
KRUMHOLZ & MENTLIK, LLP
600 South Avenue West
Westfield, New Jersey 07090
(908) 654-5000
Attorney for Applicant